

Columbia National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Regulations



Columbia National Wildlife Refuge provides 13,596 acres open to waterfowl, upland bird, and deer hunting on select days and within specific areas of the refuge.

Hunting is permitted in accordance with all applicable State regulations (see website: wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/) and special refuge regulations.

- **Open to Hunting** – Goose, duck, coot, snipe, all upland game birds and deer.
- **Deer Hunting** – Centerfire rifles are prohibited. Marsh Unit 1 is closed to all big game hunting. See map for open/closed areas.
- **Closed to Hunting** – All other species of wildlife not listed are protected. Examples include elk, bears, snakes, ravens, coyotes, turkeys and rabbits.
- **Days** – Except for Marsh Unit 1 and Farm Unit 226-227 (see Details), all areas that are open to public access are free roam hunting areas and are open seven days a week (see map).
- **Hours** – The Refuge is open from 1-1/2 hours before legal hunt time to 1-1/2 hours after legal hunt time.
- **General Public Entry** – For non-hunters, the Refuge is open to the public seven days a week, from sunrise to sunset.
- **Firearms, Archery, Ammunition & Shell Limits** – Only shotguns, muzzleloaders and archery are permitted. Centerfire rifles are prohibited. Only federally approved non-toxic shot may be used or possessed for shotguns. This includes buckshot. For deer, the use of lead slugs for shotguns and lead projectiles for muzzleloaders are okay to use. Hunters are limited to the use or possession of 25 shells per day for hunting.
- **Boats** – Non-motorized boats or floating devices may be used during the hunting season to set decoys and retrieve downed birds only.
- **Vehicle Travel** – All vehicles, including bicycles, are restricted to designated motorized routes of travel and parking areas.
- **Dogs** – Dogs must be kept on leashes, except during the lawful pursuit of game during legal seasons.

Details on Specific Hunt Areas

- **Blinds** – Only portable or temporary blinds constructed of non-living natural materials are permitted.
- **Marsh Unit 1** – Hunting for ducks and upland game birds is allowed. Unit is open to waterfowl hunting Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and Federal holidays. Upland game hunting is not allowed before 12:00 noon.
- **Farm Unit 226-227** – Hunting is permitted for waterfowl only; upland bird hunting is not allowed. The Unit is open to hunting Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and Federal holidays. All hunters are required to access the hunt area from the designated parking area (see map). Waterfowl hunters must park on a first-come, first-served basis in the numbered parking space matching the numbered field post (1-3) they are hunting. Hunters wishing to change locations must move their vehicle to the corresponding parking space before continuing to hunt. Unattended vehicles (i.e. to reserve a spot) are not allowed unless hunters are in the field hunting during designated State/Refuge hours. Hunters must remain within 100 feet of the numbered field post (1-3) unless retrieving birds or setting decoys. A maximum of 4 persons are allowed at each field post.

Selected Prohibited Activities











- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Fires
- Overnight camping on Refuge
- Overnight parking
- Littering (including empty shotgun hulls)
- Commercial guiding for hunting
- Abandoning, discarding, or otherwise leaving personal property
- Target shooting
- Discharging any firearm within one-quarter mile of any maintained building
- Trapping or netting

Contact Information

Columbia National Wildlife Refuge
51 South Morgan Lake Road
P.O. Box F
Othello, WA 99344
509/488 2668
www.fws.gov/mcriver/regulations

Columbia NWR

Hunt Area Map

-  Refuge headquarters
-  Parking
-  Boat launch
-  Road
-  Open to hunting (see species other side)
-  Waterfowl and upland bird hunting only
-  Closed to hunting
-  Waterfowl hunting only
-  Closed to all access
-  Refuge boundary

